

SECRET  
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

PAG/M-857-64  
30 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Collection Guidance Staff, DDI/CIA

SUBJECT: Data on BLUE SPRING Photography

1. In response to your request for certain information related to the BLUE SPRING photographic reconnaissance program, the following is submitted:

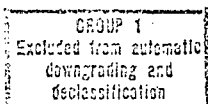
a. The quality of the BLUE SPRING photography has varied from mission to mission. The first mission received by NPIC was almost completely impaired by weather, however, the portions that were discernible are considered equal to poor quality U-2 photography. The second mission was considerably better from a weather standpoint, however, some exposure and/or processing problems were experienced. One roll was extremely dark, the other roll extremely light. Poor imagery was also apparent on that mission. The third mission was approximately 99 per cent cloud covered. Approximately 5 exposures were over water and a similar number over land were observed with the water exposure appearing relatively sharp. Land exposures were hampered by haze. Once again this quality is similar to poor quality U-2 coverage. The last mission generally was somewhat better than the previous three, however, atmospheric conditions did hamper interpretation.

b. It has taken two to three days for the BLUE SPRING missions to reach NPIC. Mission 5015 was flown 20 August, received 21 August; Mission 5006, flown 3 September, received 5 September; Mission 5021, flown 21 September, received 23 September; Mission 5020, flown 25 September, received 27 and 28 September. Some discrepancies in field reporting have been noted by NPIC and corrections have been made via cable. Particularly deficient have been AOB and NOB reporting.

c. All missions received thus far have been processed by the Third Air Division, Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, utilizing Eastman Kodak Versimat processing equipment.

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM



SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SUBJECT: Data on BLUE SPRING Photography

d. A total of 651 feet of film was received on mission 5015; 645 feet received on mission 5006; 661 feet received on mission 5021; and 672 feet received on mission 5020. As of this date, a total of seven missions have been flown and four successful recoveries.

e. Two of the three unsuccessful missions were launched from Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, for recovery at Dan Nang, South Vietnam. The four successful missions and one unsuccessful mission were launched from Kadena, Ikinawa, and recovered at Taiwan. These missions have been scheduled to cover North Vietnam and Southeast China.

f. The original negative is not used generally in the interpretation process. Availability of the original negative enhances the production of briefing boards and duplicate materials but is not critical to immediate interpretation process.

50X1

Assistant for Photographic Analysis, NPIC

Distribution:

- 1 - CGS/CIA/DDI
- 1 - PAG/NPIC
- ✓ 1 - IPO/PAG/NPIC
- 1 - GMD/PAG/NPIC
- 1 - DIAXX-2
- 1 - CIA/PID (NPIC)

SECRET

NO FOREIGN DISSEM